

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: SCHLESINGER REMARKS RE PHILIPPINES

REF: MANILA 12478-U

1. PARAGRAPH TWO BELOW CONTAINS PORTIONS OF SCHLESINGER TRANSCRIPT NOT INCLUDED IN EPF-60. THIS CABLE PLUS EPF-60 CONTAIN ALL COMMENTS ON PHILIPPINES. WILL POUCH FULL TRANSCRIPTS OF BOTH NEWS CONFERENCES. THERE WAS NO SEPARATE INTERVIEW WITH LACHICA.

2. Q: MR. SECRETARY, HOW WOULD YOU ADDRESS YOURSELF TO DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING THE PHILIPPINES BASES. ONE, I THINK, IS THE PROPOSAL BY THE PHILIPPINES GOVERNMENT TO CIVILIANIZE THE USE OF SOME OF THE BASES, FOR INSTANCE, CONVERTING PART OF SUBIC INTO A SHIPYARD, AND THE OTHER I THINK HAS TO DO WITH A DECLARATION IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND NORTH VIETNAM WHICH IMPOSES A SELF RESTRAINT ON THE USE OF AMERICAN BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES AGAINST COUNTRIES IN INDOCHINA. WOULD THIS BE A CONSTRAINT AGAINST THE USE, THE FREE USE, OF AMERICAN BASES FOR ITS PARTICULAR MISSION THERE?
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SECY; LET ME HAVE THAT LAST PART AGAIN.

Q: IN THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED INVOLV-
ING THE PHILIPPINES AND NORTH VIETNAM, THERE WAS A
DECLARATION ON THE PART OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT
THAT IT WOULD NOT ALLOW THE USE OF BASES IN THE PHILIP-
PINES AGAINST COUNTRIES IN INDOCHINA, AND I THINK A
SIMILAR SUBMISSION WAS MADE ON THE NORTH VIETNAMESE
SIDE. I WAS ASKING WHETHER THIS WOULD BE IN EFFECT A
CONSTRAINT AGAINST THE USE, THE FREE USE, OF AMERICAN
FORCES IN THE PHILIPPINES.

SECY: IF THAT WERE THE CASE, OF COURSE IT WOULD BE A
CONSTRAINT. I THINK THAT ONE RECOGNIZES THAT EVEN AT
THE PRESENT TIME, WITH THE SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF
U.S. BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES, THAT THE UNITED STATES
IS NOT UTTERLY FREE TO PROCEED, THAT THE LEGAL STATUS IS
DIFFERENT FROM THE PRACTICAL STATUS, AND THAT ONE ALWAYS
HAS CONSTRAINTS OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER ON THE USE OF
FACILITIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

WITH REGARD TO THE FIRST ISSUE AS TO A VARIETY OF
SUGGESTIONS REGARDING COMMERCIALIZATION OF THE BASES,
WE WILL HAVE TO REVIEW THEM, BUT I WOULD POINT OUT
THAT ANY SUBSTANTIAL COMMERCIALIZATION FIRST DEPENDS
UPON THERE BEING A DEMAND FOR THE OUTPUT THAT THE
BASE REPRESENTS A MARKETABLE DEMAND AND, SECONDLY, IF
THERE IS SUCH A MARKETABLE DEMAND AND ONE DIVERTS THE
RESOURCES OF THE BASE, THAT ONE MAY WIND UP WITH RE-
DUCED MILITARY CAPABILITY AND, SPEAKING FOR THE UNITED
STATES, THAT IS NOT OUR OBJECTIVE.
MILLER

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